Goods imported into India are liable to pay basic customs duty, countervailing duty and special customs duty. The counter-vailing duty is equivalent to the duty of Central Excise imposed on like goods manufactured or produced in India. In view of this, the imported goods would bear invariably higher rate of duty than similar goods produced in India.

(c) and (d) The export product has to be competitive in the international market and the inputs for such exports products have to be sourced at most competitive prices whether domestically or from any other country.

Customs appraisal for import of goods

449. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a major change in policy with regard to the customs appraisal for import of goods;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to assign companies for the pre-shipment inspection; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the misuse of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHAN HEGDE) (a) to (c) Complaints have been received from time to time about under-valuation and misclassification of imported goods leading to loss of revenue as also undue delays in cargo clearance at the ports and airports. With a view to overcoming these problems, Government have been considering several measures, one of which was the setting up of the Directorate of valuation to disseminate information on international prices and also monitor valuation practices in the Customs formations. One of the suggestions that come up for consideration in this regard was the use of pre-shipment inspection for ensuring correct classification and valuation of imported goods. No decision has been taken in the mattter.

Decline in exports

450. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of growth of export was considerably less than the target fixed for the year 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHAN HEGDE) (a) As per the provisional data of DGCI&S the rate of growth of export during 1997-98 was 2.64% in dollar terms and 7.5% in rupee terms and is lower than the target set for the year 1997-98.

(b) Export performance is influenced inter-alia by international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supporting infrastructure, policy framework etc. During 1997-98 exports were affected due to general slow down in world trade and especially the recession in many countries in South East Asia including Japan, supply side constraints in some sectors and slow erosion of competitiveness.

(c) Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export Promotion and consultation with trade and industry. The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on high growth trajectory.

Anti-dumping Duty on Import of Steel

451. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel manufacturers in the country including SAIL have complained that the import of cheaper hot-rolled coils from South Korea, South Africa and Turkey have cut into their market shares locally and in the export markets and have demanded an anti-dumping duty on import from these countries; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Commerce (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir.